

REMARKS

I. Status

On August 17, 2006, Applicants filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(c)(2) along with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The petition and the RCE were occasioned by the citation to Gao et al. (1998) in a Supplementary European Search Report, mailed on June 21, 2006. The petition was granted on August 21, 2006. Subsequently, on August 31, 2006, a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due was mailed.

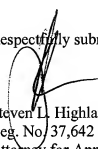
On September 12, 2006, the undersigned placed a call to Examiner Seaman requesting the opportunity to submit amendments under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 to claims 1 and 4. Examiner Seaman indicated that the amendments would be appropriate if timely submitted. Such amendments are provided above.

Examiner Seaman requested that Applicants comment on the relevance of Gao et al. (1998). This reference discloses compound 3c, having a phenyl in what corresponds to the “R₃” position in Applicants’ claims. The above amendments remove “phenyl” from the list of possibilities for R₃ in claims 1 and 4. Therefore, the 3c compound of Gao et al. (1988) should not negatively impact the claims as presented above. Furthermore, the proposed amendments raise no new issues and should require no additional search or examination.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any questions regarding this request, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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